

# *Pennington Borough Water Department* **Annual Drinking Water Quality Report**

*For the Year 2009*

The Pennington Water Company, PWS ID #1108001, is pleased to present you with this year's *Annual Water Quality Report*. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of water and the services we deliver to you every day. We are committed to providing you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water, making every effort to protect our water resources and improving the water treatment process. We work hard to provide top quality water to every tap.

As part of our operations, we routinely monitor for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2009 are presented and described in this flyer.

We are pleased to report that our drinking water this year, as in years past, met all Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and State of New Jersey (State) drinking water health standards.

In light of the events of the past few years and in response to the State's Domestic Security Preparedness Act, we have reviewed the security of our facilities and our operations. We will continue to review these elements of our system and remain observant of our surroundings. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water resources which are the heart of our community, our way of life, and our children's future.

## **An Important Message About an Individual's Vulnerability**

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

**Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).**

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife;
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharge, oil and gas production, mining, or farming;
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses;
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

## **SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING CHILDREN, PREGNANT WOMEN, NURSING MOTHERS AND OTHERS**

Children may receive a slightly higher amount of a contaminant present in the water than do adults, on a body weight basis, because they may drink a greater amount of water per pound of body weight than do adults. For this reason, reproductive or developmental effects are used for calculating a drinking water standard if these effects occur at lower levels than other health effects of concern. If there is insufficient toxicity information for a chemical (for example, lack of data on reproductive or developmental effects), an exact uncertainty factor may be incorporated into the calculation of the drinking water standard, thus making the standard more stringent, to account for additional uncertainties regarding these effects. In the cases of lead and nitrate, effects on infants and children are the health end points upon which the standards are based.

### **ARSENIC**

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

### **LEAD**

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Pennington Water Company is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

### **NITRATE**

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

### **CRYPTOSPORIDIUM**

Cryptosporidium is a microscopic organism found in rivers and streams and effectively eliminated by a treatment process that includes filtration, sedimentation and disinfection.

## **FROM WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME?**

Our water is provided from five wells located around the Borough. These wells range in age from 16 to 52 years old, are between 270 and 400 feet deep, and collect water via fractures in the bedrock from the Passaic formation. Each year we deliver about 100 million gallons of water to our customers.

The storage tank in the Borough parking lot is the home of over 600,000 gallons of water. The tank, the inside of which was painted and several other repairs were made in 2000, provides about one day's worth of storage, but acts primarily for the instant use of large volumes of water – such as in the event of a fire emergency. The exterior of the tank, although slightly faded, continues to provide corrosion free protection.

## **MONITORING WAIVERS**

The Safe Drinking Water Act regulations allow monitoring waivers to reduce or eliminate the monitoring requirements for asbestos, volatile organic chemicals and synthetic organic chemicals because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

Our system received a monitoring waiver for asbestos contamination (dated June 8, 1994, no expiration date) and for synthetic organic chemicals from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). With respect to synthetic organic chemicals, the NJDEP extended the waiver for the 2002-2004 Compliance Period based on samples taken by the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water.

## **TREATMENT TECHNIQUES**

By law, our water is disinfected to eliminate any microbiological organisms that might be in the water. All five of our wells are equipped with a chlorine liquid (sodium hypochlorite) injection system, which is safer for our staff than the chlorine gas injection used in the past.

As the disinfection occurs, some of the chlorine remains available. Every day, we monitor the level of this residual chlorine to ensure the correct amount of chlorine is injected. Thus, we are sure that disinfection is complete, but we do not over chlorinate. In addition, we monitor the residual chlorine level throughout the water distribution system.

We do not add fluoride to our drinking water. EPA neither endorses nor opposes the addition of fluoride to drinking water.

## MONITORING

In order to ensure that the quality of our water is consistently maintained, we monitor for approximately 100 constituents in the raw water withdrawn from our wells. Many of these constituents are either not present or cannot be detected by the laboratory equipment. A handful of constituents have been detected which are listed in the Table on the adjoining page.



We are proud that our drinking water regularly meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected at low levels. Although these levels are not high enough to require special treatment, they are periodically watched to ensure they remain low.

In cases where constituents are removed by treatment, the levels of these constituents are monitored in the raw water and the treated water twice a month. This helps us to ensure the treatment is working properly and allows us to see trends in the quality of the raw water so that treatment techniques can be modified if required.

During the 2009 season, in addition to the Summary of Test Results provided in the Table, we have periodically tested for the following parameters:

Total Coliform	Methyl acrylate	1,3-dichloropropane	1,3-dichlorobenzene
E. coli	THF	1,2-dibromoethane	1,2-dichlorobenzene
Dichlorodifluoromethane	Bromochloromethane	Chlorobenzene	N-butyl benzene
Chloride	1,1,1-trichloroethane	1,1,1,2-tetrachloroethane	1,4-dichlorobenzene
Bromomethane	1-chlorobutane	m/p xylene	1,2-dibromo-3-chloropropane
Chloroethane	1,1-dichloropropene	o-xylene	Hexachloroethane
Diethyl ether	Carbon tetrachloride	Styrene	Nitrobenzene
Methyl iodine	1,2-dichloroethane	Isopropyl benzene	1,2,4-trichlorobenzene
Allyl chloride	Benzene	1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane	Hexachlorobutadiene
Carbon disulfide	1,2-dichloropropane	1,2,3-trichloropropane	Naphthalene
Tertiary Butyl Alcohol	Methylmethacrylate	N-propyl benzene	1,2,3-trichlorobenzene
Acrylonitrile	Chloroacetonitrile	Trans-1,4-dichloro-2-Butene	MBAS
MTBE	2-chlorovinyl ether	Bromobenzene	Sulfate
Methylethyl Ketone (MEK)	MIBK	1,3,5-trimethyl benzene	Total Dissolved Solids
Acetone	Cis Dichloroethene	2-chlorotoluene	Zinc
Trichlorofluoromethane	1,1-dichloropropanone	4-chlorotoluene	Iron
Methylene chloride	Trans-1,3-dichloropropene	Tert-butylbenzene	Hardness
Trans-1,2-dichloroethene	Ethyl methacrylate	1,2,4-trimethylbenzene	Alkalinity
Propionitrile	Cis-1,3-dichloropropene	Pentachloroethane	
2,2-dichloropropane	2-hexanone	Sec-butylbenzene	
Methacrylonitrile	1,1,2-trichloroethane	P-isopropyltoluene	

### TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS:

<b>AL</b> –	<b>Action Level</b> is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
<b>MCL</b> –	<b>Maximum Contaminant Level</b> is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
<b>MCLG</b> –	<b>Maximum Contaminant Level Goal</b> is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
<b>MRDL</b> –	<b>Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level</b> is the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
<b>MRDLG</b> –	<b>Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal</b> is the level of a drinking water disinfectant, below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.
<b>ND</b> –	<b>Non-Detects</b> refers to when laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.
<b>NJDEP</b> –	<b>New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection</b>
<b>pCi/l</b> –	<b>Picocuries per liter</b> is a measure of the radioactivity in water.
<b>ppb</b> –	<b>Parts per billion</b> (also known as Micrograms per liter) is one part per billion which corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
<b>ppm</b> –	<b>Parts per million</b> (also known as Milligrams per liter) is one part per million which corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.
<b>RUL</b> –	<b>Recommended Upper Limit</b> is the recommended maximum concentration of a Secondary Contaminant. These reflect aesthetic qualities such as odor, taste or appearance. RULs are recommendations, <u>not</u> mandates.
<b>SEC</b> –	<b>Secondary Contaminant</b> is a substance that does not have an impact on health. Secondary Contaminants affect aesthetic qualities such as odor, taste or appearance. Secondary standards are recommendations, not mandates.
<b>TT</b> –	<b>Treatment Technique</b> is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
<b>USEPA</b> –	<b>United States Environmental Protection Agency</b>

### Summary of Test Results (as of year ending 2009)

CONSTITUENTS	TYPE*	RANGE OF CONCENTRATION	MCLG	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Gross Alpha (most recent test results from 2007)	RAD	Average = 4.6 and range: 2.11 to 6.60 pCi/l	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228 (most recent test results from 2007)	RAD	Average = 1.6 and range: 1.18 to 1.98 pCi/l	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic	IN	Average = 3.5 and range: 2.9 to 4.5 ppb	-	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	IN	Average = 0.271 and range: 0.245 to 0.326	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium	IN	Average = 9 and range: 8 to 11 ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pump mills; erosion of natural deposits
Copper	IN	0.285 ppm	1.3	AL = 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (most recent test results from 2006)	IN	Average = 0.5 and range: 0.40 to 0.60 ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead	IN	2 ppb	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Sulfate (most recent test results from 2006)	IN/SEC	Average = 18.8 and range: 15.00 to 26.00 ppm	--	RUL = 250	Occurs naturally in drinking water.
Nitrate	IN	Average = 2.1 and range: 1.8 to 2.4 ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	IN/SEC	Average = 19.4 and range: 12.5 to 39 ppm	--	RUL = 50	Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium	IN	Average = 9 and range: 8 to 9 ppb	50	50	Discharge from petroleum refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines.
1,1-Dichloroethane (most recent test results from 2006)	VO	0.4 ppb	40	50	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
Benzene (most recent test results from 2006)	VO	0.4 ppb	1	1	Fumes and exhaust connected with its use in gasoline, as well as fumes from its production and use in manufacturing other chemicals. Discharges into water from industrial effluents and losses during spills.
Ethylbenzene (most recent test results from 2006)	VO	0.5 ppb	700	700	Discharge from petroleum refineries
Tetrachloroethylene	VO	0.3 ppb	0	1	Leaching from PVC pipes; discharge from factories and dry cleaners.
Trichloroethylene	VO	Average = 0.3 and range: 0.3 to 0.3 ppb	0	1	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
Xylenes, total (most recent test results from 2006)	VO	4.0 ppb	1000	1000 ppb	Discharge from petroleum factories; discharge from chemical factories
1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene (most recent test results from 2006)	VO	0.3 ppb	--	--	New identified contaminant which may require regulation in the future.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	T	3.9 to 23.0 ppb	--	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Bromodichloromethane	T	Average = 1.6 and range: 0.4 to 6 ppb	0	80 [Total]	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Bromoform	T	Average = 1.8 and range: 0.4 to 3.3 ppb	0	80 [Total]	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chloroform	T	Average = 1.8 and range: 0.3 to 10.7 ppb	--	80 [Total]	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Dibromochloromethane	T	Average= 2.0 and range: 0.4 to 4.5 ppb	60	80 [Total]	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (most recent test results from 2008)	H	Average= 2.1 and range 2.0 to 2.1 ppb	--	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Dibromoacetic acid (most recent test results from 2008)	H	Average= 2.1 and range 2.0 to 2.1 ppb	--	60 [Total]	By-product of drinking water disinfection

\*TYPES: IN – Inorganic Contaminant VO – Volatile Organic Contaminant T – Trihalomethanes are by-products of drinking water disinfection RAD – Radioactive Contaminants H – Haloacetic Acid

## SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has completed and issued the Source Water Assessment Report and Summary for this public water system, which is available at [www.state.nj.us/dep/swap/](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/swap/) or by contacting the NJDEP, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at (609) 292-5550.

The source water assessment performed on our five (5) well water sources determined the susceptibility ratings for the seven categories (and radon) for each source in the system; the results are summarized in Table #1 below. Table #1 provides the number of wells that rated high (H), medium (M), or low (L) for each contaminant category. The seven categories are defined at the bottom of the table.

**If a system is rated highly susceptible for a contamination category, it does not mean a customer is or will be consuming contaminated drinking water.** The rating reflects the potential for contamination of source water, not the existence of contamination. Public water systems are required to monitor for regulated contaminants and to install treatment if any contaminants are detected at frequencies and concentrations above allowable levels.

**Table #1**

*Susceptibility Ratings for Pennington Water Department Sources*

Sources	Pathogens			Nutrients			Pesticides			Volatile Organic Compounds			Inorganics			Radio-nuclides			Radon			Disinfection Byproduct Precursors			
	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	
Wells – 5		3	2	5				2	3	4		1	3	2			5		5				5		

- **Pathogens:** Disease-causing organisms such as bacteria and viruses. Common sources are animal and human fecal wastes.
- **Nutrients:** Compounds, minerals and elements that aid growth, that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include nitrogen and phosphorus.
- **Volatile Organic Compounds:** Man-made chemicals used as solvents, degreasers, and gasoline components. Examples include benzene, methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), and vinyl chloride.
- **Pesticides:** Man-made chemicals used to control pests, weeds and fungus. Common sources include land application and manufacturing centers of pesticides. Examples include herbicides such as atrazine, and insecticides such as chlordane.
- **Inorganics:** Mineral-based compounds that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include arsenic, asbestos, copper, lead, and nitrate.
- **Radionuclides:** Radioactive substances that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include radium and uranium.
- **Radon:** Colorless, odorless, cancer-causing gas that occurs naturally in the environment. For more information go to <http://www.nj.gov/dep/rpp/radon/index.htm> or call (800) 648-0394.
- **Disinfection Byproduct Precursors:** A common source is naturally occurring organic matter in surface water. Disinfection byproducts are formed when the disinfectants (usually chlorine) used to kill pathogens react with dissolved organic material (for example leaves) present in surface water.

Potential contaminant sources within our source water assessment area are listed in *Appendix A- Attachment 1* of the *Source Water Assessment Report for Pennington Water Department*, available at [www.state.nj.us/dep/swap/](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/swap/) or by contacting the NJDEP, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at (609) 292-5550.

NJDEP calculated the percentage of community water systems in New Jersey that rated high, medium, and low for each of the potential contaminant categories. To understand how our water sources compare to all other community water system groundwater sources, please refer to Table #1 above and Table #2 below.

**Table #2**

*Summary of Statewide Susceptibility Ratings for Community Water System Groundwater Sources (in Percent, %)*

Susceptibility Rating	Pathogens	Nutrients	Pesticides	Volatile Organic Compounds	Inorganics	Radio-nuclides	Radon	Disinfection Byproduct Precursors
High	4	48	0	44	27	35	36	22
Medium	40	22	23	0	38	45	38	76
Low	56	31	77	56	35	20	26	2

If you have questions regarding the source water assessment report or summary, please contact the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at [swap@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:swap@dep.state.nj.us) or (609) 292-5550.

## **IMPORTANT DROUGHT INFORMATION AND HOW YOU CAN HELP SAVE WATER**

No current water use restrictions or exemptions exist at this time, but NJDEP urges everyone to use water wisely in order to not deplete New Jersey's water resources. More information on drought related matters can be found at [www.njdrought.org](http://www.njdrought.org).

The Pennington Water Company is always trying to conserve water. We are constantly looking and listening for water leaks and sources of wasted water. We encourage all Borough residents to help us by being observant and if you suspect a possible water leak or misuse of water, please contact us at (609) 737-9440.

In addition, you can make a difference by saving water. Here are a few quick tips for conserving water, even in non-emergency times:

- Install water conserving showerheads and faucet aerators in the bathroom and kitchen (available at most home improvement stores as well as some supermarkets);
- Turn off faucets when not in use, such as brushing your teeth or washing the dishes;
- Run washing machines and dishwashers only when they are full;
- Use a broom to sweep the sidewalk, rather than a hose;
- Water lawns only as needed. In New Jersey, usually one inch of water per week is all that is needed to maintain a healthy lawn. Irrigation timers should be set to water in the early morning (before 10 am) and should be turned off during and after rainfall;
- Water lawns (and outdoor plants) in the early morning hours (before 10 am) for shorter, more frequent periods to allow time for the soil to absorb the water and enable roots to grow deep, while avoiding rot and encouraging drought tolerance;
- Use mulch and native plants to conserve water in the garden;
- Use a rain barrel to capture water from a downspout to use later for watering gardens and plants;
- Use soaker hoses or drip irrigation to water trees, gardens and flower beds;

For more detailed information, please go to [www.h2ouse.org](http://www.h2ouse.org) to enter an interactive water conserving website sponsored by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the California Urban Water Conservation Council. Here you will find useful information on how you can conserve water in and outside your home, product information, environmental benefits and cost estimates, along with a water calculator to figure where you can conserve water in your daily routine. Remember, if we all do a little, we can save a lot!

## **LEAK DETECTION**

The NJDEP Division of Water Resources requires the Borough to account for the water that is withdrawn from the ground. The greatest amount of water that can be withdrawn from the ground and not metered is 15 percent. Called "unaccounted for water", this can include water lost to leaks, inaccurate meters, unmetered connections, hydrant use and theft of water.

In 2009, the water source meters were tested for accuracy by a certified agency. In 2005-2006, the Department had a third party audit its customer consumption/meter records, including office and field verification; as a result of the findings, the Borough has replaced approximately 90% of its large size water meters due to their age and accuracy. In addition to replacing the large meters, the Borough is considering replacement of all water meters. During September 2008, the Public Works Department performed a comprehensive survey using sophisticated listening devices to check the water distribution system for leaks; the testing included all fire hydrants, all street valves and 90% of all water service lines. As a result of the survey, a number of water main and service line leaks were detected and promptly repaired. In 2010, an additional comprehensive leak detection survey will be conducted in conjunction with the Department continuing to aggressively monitor the water distribution system for leaks and make repairs accordingly. In addition, when a real estate transaction occurs, the Department performs a house inspection which includes checking the water service line to the property for leaks and verifying the water meter reading.

## WATER LEAKS MEAN MORE THAN WATER DOWN THE DRAIN

What appears to be an insignificant little leak from a faucet, pipe, toilet or garden hose is more serious than it may appear, and it will certainly affect something very important to you – your budget.

Your water meter measures the water that is used in your home, but it can't tell the difference between a leak and things you normally choose to do with water. In many cases, the cost and effort involved in fixing a leak is minimal; but as the chart below shows, the smallest leak in your home can result in a tremendous amount of water that you never use – but pay for just the same.

A continuous leak from a hole in a pipe, with a diameter 3/16", at 60 psi of pressure results in a loss of 666,000 gallons per year.

And even if the job calls for a plumber, you still come out ahead for a simple reason – you only pay for the water you use.



<u>Diameter of Stream</u> (in Inches)	<u>Water Wasted</u> (in Gallons per year)
1/32	18,500
1/16	74,000
1/8	296,000
1/4	1,181,500

Note: Based on a water pressure of 60 pounds per square inch.

A dripping faucet or fixture can waste 3 gallons of water a day, or a total of 1,095 gallons a year. Leaky faucets usually mean worn washers. They cost only a few cents and are relatively easy to replace. If you have never tackled a job like this before, you may want to consult a home repair guide or even call a plumber. It may be well worth it.

There is a simple way to determine if you have leaks in your home using your water meter. Before going to bed, turn off all the faucets and appliances that use water (don't forget a water softener that might operate at night). Then make a note of your meter reading. Before you use any water the next morning, take another reading. If the readings are different, you know your home has at least one leak. Finding and repairing leaks in your home is always a good idea. Don't allow your hard-earned dollars to leak away.

Toilets that leak can waste thousands of gallons of water a month. The problem is usually in the toilet tank, where water escapes down the overflow tube or past the plunger ball. One way to detect plunger ball leaks is to add a few drops of food coloring to the tank. If the coloring shows in the bowl within a half-hour without flushing, take one of the following steps:

- Align the plunger ball so that it fits snugly into the valve seat.
- Replace the plunger ball if it appears to be worn.
- Smooth a corroded or scaly valve seat with an emery cloth, or replace it if it is badly worn.

Finally, if you suspect a leak or problem with the Borough's water distribution system, such as observing running or spouting water along the ground surface or unusually low water pressure, please contact the Borough and advise us of your observations.

## LAWN AND GARDEN

Summer is also the time when people, animals and plants drink plenty of water. But not all landscaping requires water to survive, and there are ways to make the water you use more effective.



Grass can survive periods of months at a time with no water. The color changes, but the grass does not die. It merely goes dormant. (Grass does not grow in the winter, yet it does not die). It takes an inordinate amount of water to keep a lawn green through the hottest portions of summer; more than we can really spare.

Watering landscaping and especially lawn areas while the sun is up is wasteful. Since the heat of the sun has warmed the ground, most of the water that is applied is evaporated into the air. Watering in the morning an hour before sunrise, or in the evening two hours after sunset, provides the most effective and efficient watering.

## **MASTER PLANNING**

This is a very important daily and ongoing activity. In order to ensure an adequate source of water supply and infrastructure for the future, the Water Company is constantly monitoring the activities of the Borough Council, the Planning Board, the Building Department and the neighboring community. This allows us to supply existing and potential customers with vital information required for successful community planning.

## **WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS**

Since the late 1980s, water mains throughout the Borough have been routinely replaced in order to provide uninterrupted water supply for hundreds of customers. Prior to the resurfacing of roadways, we evaluate the need for replacement of the existing water lines and proceed accordingly. In 2009, the water mains on Burd Street were replaced.

In addition, each year a revolving number of services are replaced. A “service” is the portion of piping from the water main to the property line that is under the roadway and under the jurisdiction of the Water Company. We make sure that older services of wrought iron or galvanized iron are replaced with modern copper before the roadways they are under are resurfaced. In 2009 as part of the said Burd Street water main replacement project, all water services were also replaced.

Borough of Pennington  
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***ANNUAL DRINKING  
WATER REPORT***

**Important Information**

PRESORTED FIRST CLASS

If you have any questions about this report or your water utility, please contact Donald E. Fetzer, P.E., at (609) 987-2323. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you wish to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Borough Council meetings at Borough Hall, 30 North Main Street. Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.